

# Meeting Minutes

Project: Upper Platte River Basin Water Management Plan– Single Planning Group

Subject: Meeting #3

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, North Platte, NE

- I. Administration – Led by Stephanie White, HDR
  - a. Meeting Purpose – This meeting is a turning point from the orientation sessions into discussion and refinement of goals; open meeting act was discussed; Stephanie reminded everyone to sign in
  - b. Today’s meeting will offer a working lunch – must sign in to eat
  - c. Follow-up items – At previous meeting, there was a request for summary of studies and detail of purpose and results; information was summarized into handout and given to meeting attendees; “Glossary of Terms” is in process and will be uploaded to website.
  - d. Generic copy of survey responses was requested and will be provided for this and future meetings when surveys are used to gather input in advance of a meeting.
  
- II. Platte River Hydrogeology – Background information and powerpoint presentation led by John Engel, HDR focused on:
  - a. Hydrogeology 101
  - b. Platte River Hydrogeology
  - c. Original COHYST modeling background
  - d. Current modeling efforts (WWUM and COHYST)

#### Additional Information Requested:

- How has new data collected been used and what have we learned from it?
- What is predicted value and reliability of models?
- How are precipitation patterns/topography/soil type/land use reflected in models?
- Robust review results will update initial estimates (post 1997 uses) and look at activities that occurred in first increment and what are the benefits
- Graphic of post-1997 wells (new wells only – not replacements)
- Graphic that shows calibration targets; map that shows monitoring wells and coverage used to build the models
- Describe the sensitivity analysis used in developing the models.

At future Single Planning Group meeting, more detailed information on the COHYST and WWUM will be presented.

- III. Review & Refinement of First Increment Plan
  - Discussion of PRRIP and Nebraska New Depletion Plan: Led by Jennifer Schellpeper, DNR. This included discussion of PRRIP background, target flows, and water action plan projects to offset depletions
  - NRDs, DNR, and majority of stakeholders have indicated, in general, that the plan is good and it’s working; would like to initially work within the plan and refine it, rather than start from scratch
  - Approach for today’s discussion is to revisit the current plan “as-is” and determine where it needs to be fine-tuned, focusing on Goals #2 and #3.

- a. Goal 2: Prevent reductions in the flow of a river or stream that would cause noncompliance with an interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement. – Led by Stephanie White, HDR

Goal 2 Goal and Objectives Discussion:

- Poll sent out prior to meeting. 12 responses - 80% said Goal 2 and the objectives are fine “as-is”.
  - Should it include drought conditions?
  - Is “other formal state contract or agreement” a moving target?
  - What about when it is not possible to reach goal?
  - “Prevent” may not be the right word and sentence is double negative.
  - Does interstate compact provide flexibility to be in noncompliance during drought conditions?
  - If new interstate compact is added, then would need to keep plan current.
  - Is action to ensure compliance or prevent non-compliance?
  - Goal 2 Possible Enhancements:
    - “Prevent or mitigate human-induced reductions in the flow of a river or stream that would cause noncompliance with an interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement”
  - Goal 2 Objective 1 – possible enhancement: Change objective to also include “human-induced”
  - Goal 2 Objective 1 Action Item A – Discussion
    - DNR and NRDs are responsible for implementation and overseeing of individual IMPs. Who ultimately ensures compliance?
    - Does wording address changes from original IMP?
    - Split action item A into 2 portions? **Discussion consensus is to keep Action Item A as is.**
  - Goal 2 Objective 1 Action Item B – Concerns
    - **Unanimous decision to keep Action Item B as is.**
  - Goal 2 – Potential Additional Objectives/Concerns:
    - If and when Nebraska New Depletions Plan (NDP) goals are met, what will status be or what will become of the PRRIP? Not explicitly tied together, basin wide plan and PRRIP have their own goals and objectives. The IMP process is integrated with PRRIP in that similar first increment goal is to offset impacts of new uses from 1997-2005 as part of NDP.
    - Flexibility built into BWP to enable opportunity to remove portions, segments, or subbasins from Program
  - Requests for future discussion:
    - Develop summary list of formal state contracts or agreements. Do these include reference to drought conditions?
    - Drought conditions need to be addressed in somewhere in plan.
    - Revisit order of goals in plan
    - Graphic showing roles/responsibilities for development and implementation
- b. Goal 3: Keep the plan current
- Goal 3 Objective 1 Discussion:
    - Needs to address reporting on implementation and compliance with plan, and results of implementing it.
    - Process for modifications/resolving disputes resolution need to be described.
    - Needs to address transparency of process/tracking of archives/clarity (Stakeholder & public input)
    - This goal may be better as last goal in list (goal 4)

- Should notice period be amended to require 45 day notice prior to meeting to stakeholders?
- Should objective #2 be a separate goal?
- Switch the order of objectives #1 and #2?
- “At least annually” – is that enough? **Unanimous to keep reference to “at least annually” as is.**

Further discussion on Goal 3 was postponed until the Single Planning Group has completed a thorough review of the current Plan’s Goals and Objectives

IV. Next Steps

- RSVP to next meeting – November 16, 2016
- Read the current Basinwide Plan to fully understand the Goals and Objectives contained therein.
- Respond to pre-meeting survey

V. Public Comment

- Jerry Kenny, Executive Director of the PRRIP provided comment on J. Schellpeper’s presentation – noting that it was precise and accurate. As projects and solutions move forward, the PRRIP and State are working diligently to become good partners in accomplishing the goals.